

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.(Amended) A floor mat comprising

a non-woven carpet pile substrate;

a pile material tufted into said non-woven carpet pile substrate which forms a pile surface on one side of said substrate; and

A a vulcanized expanded rubber backing sheet of rubber integrated to the other side of the [carrier fabric] carpet pile substrate,

wherein said rubber backing sheet comprises a blowing agent to produce a closed cell structure foam rubber,

and

optionally, solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least one of the borders of the mat; wherein said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine; and

wherein said non-woven carpet pile substrate possesses a heat shrinkage factor of from about 2.0 to about 2.5% and said rubber backing sheet possesses a heat shrinkage factor of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%.

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Cancel Claim 9.

11.(Amended) A floor mat comprising

a non-woven carpet pile substrate;

a pile material tufted into said non-woven carpet pile substrate which forms a pile surface on one side of said substrate;

a vulcanized expanded rubber backing sheet of rubber integrated to the other side of the [carrier fabric]carpet pile substrate; and

A2 optionally, solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least a plurality of borders of the mat;

wherein said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine;

wherein said non-woven carpet pile substrate possesses a shrinkage factor of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%; and

wherein both said rubber backing sheet and said vulcanized solid rubber reinforcement strips possess a modulus strength of greater than about 1,000 pounds per square inch.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 are pending within this application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claim 9 has been deleted. No new Claims have been added. The amendments to the specification have been made in response to the objection to the Specification by the Office. The